

# **Arizona BLM Guidance**

## **Achieving Consistency in AZ Land Use Planning Efforts**

### **Land Use Planning Efforts**

Currently, Arizona has five on-going land use planning efforts and two new planning efforts beginning in fiscal year 2004. A planning effort is comprised of one or more planning areas, usually within a single field office, to enhance project management and facilitate a more effective budget process.

### **Planning Areas**

Due to the requirement to develop a stand alone RMP for each of the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas (WO IM 2001-022), each planning effort will be described in terms of the following planning areas as applicable:

- National Monument (NM) or National Conservation Area (NCA)
- All other BLM administered land within the planning effort

### **Management Units**

Planning areas are often divided into management units (MU) that are easier to work with during the land use planning process. The identification of management units within a planning area is not a land use plan decision.

Although management units may vary by the type of planning area, the basic criteria of a management unit are:

- It is smaller than the planning area as a whole
- Involves multiple resources
- Facilitates communication and understanding for internal and external publics
- Does not overlap other MUs
- May vary by alternative
- Described in the LUP alternatives description chapter (not in the chapter describing the Affected Environment)

Each management unit both within and outside of an NM or NCA shall be defined using one of the following:

- Community Interface
  - This MU is for those lands that immediately surround communities and settlements. These lands may be either outside or inside an NM or NCA, are typically outside designated wilderness, but could include some lands possessing sensitive resources. Management objectives are typically for community support, such as identifying lands for community uses, allowing special activities, and acceptance of modified landscapes for a wide variety of recreational uses. Management of lands within an NM, NCA, Wilderness Area or Wilderness Study Area must comply with the applicable proclamation, legislation, law or BLM policy, and may require management objectives that limit or prohibit inconsistent or incompatible community influences.

- Front Country
  - This MU would primarily be the focal area for visitation both motorized and non-motorized, concentrating use along major access routes. Interpretive sites, trails and overlooks could be provided.
- Passage
  - This MU typically includes secondary travel routes where visitor or other uses would not be directed or encouraged, but could be accommodated. Rudimentary facilities, such as corrals, toilets, signs, designated primitive campsites and trailheads, could be provided where needed for resource protection and public safety.
- Back Country
  - This MU typically provides an undeveloped, primitive, and self-directed visitor experience without provisions for motorized or mechanized access, except for designated routes. Facilities would be virtually nonexistent, provided only where essential for resource protection.
- Management units based on one or more of the following, may be labeled or titled as deemed appropriate:
  - Social or community based mapping (e.g., PFO using James Kent Associates)
  - Geographic features
  - Ecological regions or zones
  - Areas with issues in common

Management Unit Descriptions May Include:

- Goal or vision statement
- Desired future condition objectives
- May specify excluded, restricted, or allowed uses or management actions

**Land Use Allocations**

Land use allocations are land use plan decisions that identify specific areas of public land or mineral resources where certain uses or management actions are allowed, excluded, or may be restricted in order to achieve a desired future condition, or to protect certain resource values. Land use allocation decisions are often required by law, regulation or BLM policy. Land use allocations usually overlap the same area. In such situations, conflicts between uses and desired resource conditions are resolved through management action decisions or prescriptions.

Standard BLM List (Includes but is not limited to):

- Special Area Designations (other than National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, see 43 CFR 1601.0-5(k)(1))
  - Areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs, both existing and new proposals)
  - Wilderness areas and wilderness study areas (existing)
  - Wild and Scenic River Segments (consistent with Arizona's Legislative Final EIS, December 1994)
  - National Trails
  - Back Country Byways

- Land Use Allocations that are not Special Area Designations
  - Fire Management Areas (Fire Use or Non-Fire Use)
  - Forest Management (commercial and non-commercial allocations, etc.)
  - Grazing Allotments (GA)
  - Herd Areas (HA)
  - Herd Management Areas (HMA)
  - Land Tenure
  - Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVA)
  - Off-highway vehicle (OHV)/Transportation Access
  - Oil and Gas Leasing Potential
  - Recreation Management Zones (RMZ) (Use ROS to determine the desired recreational experience for which the area is to be managed.)
  - Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA)
  - Visual Resource Management Classes (VRM)

Arizona BLM List (Includes):

- **Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHA)** - (e.g., Big horn sheep, Antelope, Priority wildlife areas, Riparian, Previously defined habitat management areas, ESA conservation/recovery areas, Desert tortoise, Critical deer winter range, etc.)
- **Vegetative Habitat Management Areas (VHA)** - (e.g., ESA botanical critical habitat areas, etc.)
- **Manage for Wilderness Characteristics** - (Areas emphasizing the protection of some or all of the wilderness characteristics along with or as a priority over other multiple uses, without making a formal Special Area Designation.)